Public School Support

DEPARTMENT SUMMARY	FY 2003 Total Appr	FY 2003 Actual	FY 2004 Total Appr	FY 2005 Request	FY 2005 Gov Rec	FY 2005 Approp
BY DIVISION						
Administrators	0	0	73,887,800	75,386,400	75,561,500	74,401,000
Teachers	0	0	665,066,700	686,570,700	686,062,600	685,608,600
Operations	0	0	289,771,300	289,227,400	264,695,300	276,244,500
Children's Programs	0	0	114,655,000	123,040,200	118,040,200	118,040,200
Facilities	0	0	9,250,000	13,300,000	13,300,000	11,300,000
Public School Support	985,513,000	970,001,400	0	0	0	0
Total:	985,513,000	970,001,400	1,152,630,800	1,187,524,700	1,157,659,600	1,165,594,300
BY FUND SOURCE						
General	920,000,000	920,000,000	943,000,800	985,794,700	961,852,400	964,706,500
Dedicated	65,513,000	50,001,400	55,650,000	43,750,000	37,827,200	42,907,800
Federal	0	0	153,980,000	157,980,000	157,980,000	157,980,000
Total:	985,513,000	970,001,400	1,152,630,800	1,187,524,700	1,157,659,600	1,165,594,300
Percent Change:		(1.6%)	18.8%	3.0%	0.4%	1.1%
BY EXPENDITURE CLASSIFICATION						
Lump Sum	985,513,000	970,001,400	1,152,630,800	1,187,524,700	1,157,659,600	1,165,594,300

APPROPRIATION HIGHLIGHTS: The overall budget for Public School Support included a General Fund increase of 2.3% and an all-funds increase of 1.1%. This is slightly higher than the Governor's recommendation, which included a General Fund increase of 2.0% and an all-funds increase of 0.4%, and is due to the inclusion of minor dedicated funding sources left out of the Governor's original budget submittal, and the utilization of General Fund savings found in the assessments budget of the State Board of Education.

OTHER LEGISLATION: S1443 made changes to the funding formula as it applies to public virtual schools. It will result in such schools receiving no higher than the median average daily attendance funding divisor for FY04 and FY05, and no higher than the 2nd highest divisor for FY06 and FY07. These costs are covered in the FY04 appropriation by savings in the Transportation area, and in FY05 by the additional support units (25 mid-term and 30 full-term) budgeted by JFAC above the revised estimate provided by the state Department of Education. S1443 will also make it possible for large public virtual schools to receive the state's 85% transportation reimbursement for the cost of transporting the education program to students, similar to how the state pays 85% of the cost of transporting students to the education program currently. Such costs will be limited to the same statewide average cost per student funding caps as normal school districts that transport students to school.

S1444 is a comprehensive bill embracing a host of changes to the state's public charter school laws. The most relevant changes, from a financial perspective, are those that limit the number of new public charter schools in Idaho to six per year, and changes that will make it easier for new charters to be approved by the Public Charter School Commission, which the bill establishes under the State Board of Education. The seven members of the Public Charter School Commission are comprised of three current or former members of school district boards of trustees, three current or former members of public charter school boards of directors, and one member of the public at large who is unaffiliated with the education industry. All seven are appointed by the Governor.